

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-25

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FM USMISSION BERLIN

TO AMEMBASSY BONN

INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 3692

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY PARIS

USMISSION NATO

C O N F I D E N T I A L BERLIN 1227

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PGOV, WB, GW

SUBJ: FEDERAL PRESIDENT SCHEEL'S VISIT TO BERLIN

1. FEDERAL PRESIDENT SCHEEL MADE FIRST OFFICIAL VISIT TO BERLIN JULY 18-20. SCHEEL'S FULL SCHEDULE INCLUDED SYMBOLIC VISIT TO BUNDESHAUS (TO DEMONSTRATE FEDERAL PRESENCE), PARTICIPATION IN CEREMONIES COMMEMORATING 30TH ANNIVERSARY OF ATTEMPT TO ASSASSINATE HITLER AND NUMEROUS PROTOCOL FUNCTIONS.

2. SINGLE SOUR NOTE CAME WHEN HECKLERS DISRUPTED CEREMONY AT REICHSTAG BUILDING TO HONOR VICTIMS OF JULY 20, 1944 ASSASSINATION ATTEMPT (BERLIN 1220). WHILE HECKLING WAS DIRECTED AT BUNDESRAT PRESIDENT BILBINGER FOR ACTION HE TOOK AS MILITARY JUDGE IN WORLD WAR II (SCHEEL DID NOT SPEAK), OUTBREAK DISTURBED DIGNITY OF CEREMONY AND REOPENED OLD WOUNDS.

3. IN BRIEF TALKS AT BUNDESHAUS AND IN SCHOENEBERG RATHAUS, SCHEEL EMPHASIZED FRG-BERLIN TIES AND PLEDGED
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HIMSELF TO PROMOTING POLITICAL, CULTURAL AND ECONOMIC

DEVELOPMENT OF WEST BERLIN.

4. COMMENT: IT WAS UNFORTUNATE THAT PROBLEM AT
REICHSTAG CEREMONY MARRED FEDERAL PRESIDENT'S FIRST
VISIT, WHICH BY ALL OTHER COUNTS SHOULD BE CONSIDERED
A SUCCESS. KLEIN

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